

Claims:

1. An implantable prosthesis for the repair of muscle wall defects, the prosthesis comprising a flexible plug of a surgically compatible mesh material, *characterised in that* the plug has an elongate form with one portion at least of the surface of the plug forming a projecting longitudinal ridge or bulge.
2. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 1, wherein the said portion of the surface of the plug comprises a projecting lobe formed by, or on, the surface.
3. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 1 or 2 wherein the plug has a prismatic shape with a generally triangular cross-section.
4. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim, wherein the cross-section of the plug has a three lobed profile.
5. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 4, modified in that more than three lobes, or ridges, are provided.
6. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 4 or 5, wherein the apices of the lobes are joined by linear sides, providing a generally triangular cross-section.
7. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim, wherein the elongate mesh material forming the plug has internal longitudinal webs to support the profile of the mesh.
8. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 7, wherein the webs

are an integral part of the mesh configured by folding or formed by separate parts bonded to the inner surface of the outer profile.

9. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim, wherein three, or more, elongate sub-units are connected to form the prosthesis, said sub-units preferably being of a triangular profile.
10. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim, wherein the wall of the mesh is pleated circumferentially, or longitudinally to provide a degree of flexibility and compressibility, to facilitate placement into a defect comprising a hernia.
11. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim, adapted whereby the mesh plug may be cut to an appropriate required dimension from a stock length piece.
12. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim, formed by a plurality of individual units connected in a longitudinal side-by-side relationship, preferably with such units individually have a prismatic profile.
13. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim, modified whereby the plug has an open side being in the form of a triangular profiled trough, the shape being maintained by an internal support formed by mesh material.
14. An implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim, wherein the mesh material comprises polypropylene with jointing, if required, achieved by heat sealing.
15. The use of an implantable prosthesis in accordance with any preceding claim for the treatment of elongate or rectangular openings such as are

found with i/nguinal hernia defects.

16. An implantable prosthesis as described herein and exemplified with reference to the drawings.